

#### The Alliance Lecture System.

We have heard several suggestions recently with regard to the necessity of increasing the efficiency of our lecture system. The educational feature of the Order is one of the greatest importance, and one upon which our ultimate success very largely depends; and the regular lectures provided for in Sec. 8 of our Sub-Alliance Constitution are rightly regarded as one of our most potential forces in the system of education contemplated. A good lecturer in a Sub-Alliance will insure a good attendance at the meetings and a correct appreciation by its members of those economic questions which it is so important that all shall understand. To relieve the greatest possible good, however, from this source the lecturer should himself possess the most reliable and complete information possible concerning the subjects of which he is expected to speak. To this end he should be supplied with such newspapers and periodicals as are devoted to the interests of the agricultural and laboring classes, as well as the books and standard permanent literature devoted to a discussion of the great economic questions of the day. It would probably be asking too much of the lecturer to provide all these available sources of information at his own expense, and a very small contribution from each member, while it would not be a hardship to any one would provide ample means of information to the lecturer, and would result in much pleasure and profit to all. We suggest these thoughts to the favorable consideration of our Sub-Alliances and these suggestions will be followed by others looking to the still greater efficiency of this educational feature of our Order.

We give considerable space this week to the report furnished us by the Chicago Express of the proceedings of the conference recently assembled in Chicago, supposed to represent all of the reform elements of the country, and supposed to be called together to unite upon a platform that all could support. The result shows that a few capitalists and political demagogues took possession of the assembly and controlled it in their interest. It is hoped that a few facts contained in a private letter from the convention may be developed in form for general publication, and be backed by sufficient evidence to sustain them in the judgment of the people. It may thus be shown that it is the purpose of those who are opposing the great reforms desired by the people, to accomplish their defeat by entering reform conventions under the garb of friendship, and then coolly betraying the confidence reposed in their pretended sincerity. The people are bound to be betrayed whenever and wherever they place their trust in political leaders of any of the old parties.

The committee of conference representing the Kansas State Assembly of the Knights of Labor and the Kansas State Farmers' and Laborers' Alliance is expected to meet at Meriden on Dec 20th.

16 lbs. sugar for one dollar at Mos

Address of J. F. Willis, President of the Jefferson County Alliance Delivered After His Installation at Oskaloosa Nov. 11 1899.

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Brothers and Sisters of Jefferson County Farmers' Alliance:

It is with feelings of the profoundest pleasure that I take this opportunity of returning my thanks to you for this the highest honor in the gift of the membership of this county. Coming as it has by unanimous vote of the assembled farmers of thirty subordinate Alliances, I assure you that such a demonstration of your partiality is duly appreciated; and in presiding over your deliberations, it will ever be my highest ambition to discharge that duty faithfully, fairly and impartially to the best of my ability. I shall no doubt make mistakes, but appeals will always be cheerfully granted; and as my position will prevent my taking part in your deliberations for the coming year, allow me before taking my seat, to say that I feel the importance and necessity of organization.

We are to-day as a people, upon this continent, in the midst of a mighty social revolution, and the watch-word—organization and practical co-operation—is the shibboleth of every successful business enterprise that marks the progress of this enlightened age. The word, co-operation, means to us more than any other word in the English language. It is the fiat of the Almighty Creative Power, and permeates all things, both animate and inanimate. The heavenly bodies in all their mysterious movements throughout the realm of infinite space are subject to the laws of attraction and repulsion, or governed by and conducted upon the principles of co-operation. It requires the combined effort of the earth, the air, the sun and the water to produce a single blade of grass. A single ray of light from the sun would never reach the earth but would be lost in the immensity of space; but all combined they shed their effulgent rays throughout endless distances and light a world of planets everywhere. A single drop of water would never reach the parched earth. The majestic mountains that tower to the regions of perpetual snow are composed of single grains of sand, and the boundless ocean is an accumulation of single drops of water.

And now let me say in conclusion, that without the strictest adherence to these principles and their practical application to every enterprise in which we engage as an organization, failure and humiliation will be the inevitable consequence. The business world to-day that has grown rich upon the profits of the great productive industry of agriculture that we represent, is looking for every means and trying every device their ingenuity can conceive, to defeat the objects and destroy the aims and purposes of this organization. If we allow this effort of ours to fail, we will have gone back one hundred years in the history of the world, and our children's children will not be able to check the rapid destructive march of this nation in the direction of a ruinous moneyed aristocracy.

Ed. Advocate:—What plainly should be made the prime object of those engaged in the work of lifting society from the slough of despond into which it has been plunged by its enemies? The abolition of the monopolies. The watchword should be "The monopolies must go." Why so? The significant and notable cause of the ills with which society is cursed is monopoly. To the great body of social ills of which the masses so much, and rightly complain, it leads as unerringly as sunset leads to darkness. The monstrous inequality in the division of the fruits of labor, the vast wealth existing side by side with the deepest poverty, the annoying overproduction and general dullness of the markets, the enormous idleness of the people which is still growing and growing, the debauchery and high-life crimes on the one hand, and the intemperance and low-life crimes on the other hand, the waste of capital diverted into forced and unnatural channels amidst the waste of effort on the part of those who must labor at every disadvantage for want of adequate capital, the searing and depression of the best that is in man, and the development of the worst that is in him—these all are traceable to the one single authorship, viz—monopoly. They can be traced to no other authorship. The industries of the nation could not be monopolized into existing forms without the resulting ills just named. The absence of all monopoly and the presence of a common and all-wide competition could never be attended with any such ills.

But why should the monopolies be abolished? Why not attempt to control these as existing institutions, permitting them to remain? Have we not tried to control them as such and invariably failed? It is impossible to do so. Attempting to battle against them and permitting them to exist is like attempting to fight against the malaria and live in the swamp regions. We may in the latter case dose ourselves with quinine and bitter medicine and thus to an extent counteract the effects of the vapors which surround us, but each succeeding day renders us less able to contend against a danger persistent and unrelenting. We must simply yield in the end, and it is reasonable to suppose such to be the case. As long as the monopolies are extant their managers can make use of them to overcharge and underpay to any extent they please, or in other words, tax up all expenses both their own and the peoples' to the people every time an expense is incurred to try to bring the monopolists to terms. With the power to do that the attempt to control the monopolists as existing institutions becomes a thing of the utmost futility.

But this is not the best reason why the monopolies should be abolished. An attempt to control the monopolists is an attempt, when brought down to the essence of the case, to regulate or fix the prices they must charge and pay for the services and commodities in which they deal. But that is a function which should be left to competition. It is beyond the wisdom of any man or set of men to establish what should be reward or prices, either in general or in partic-

ular. They should be abolished, then so that competition will become the regulator of prices instead of erring law-makers whose duty it becomes in case we try to regulate the monopolies without abolishing them; and that is the very best reason why they should be abolished.

Abolish the monopolies and trade will be regulated by competition whence will follow the disappearance of all the evil features to which attention has above been called, and the restoration of society to a state of industrial health and prosperity.

W. V. MARRAS.

Santa Fe, Ka. Nov. 14.

The resubmission organs are washing a great deal of wind over the political changes in Kansas at the recent election, attributing all to a desire of the people for a return of the saloon. Every man in Kansas knows that the question was not thought of in the localities where the changes were effected; and we are not sufficiently charitable to believe that those who are now making themselves ridiculous in the eyes of the people by the perpetual parade of their resubmission nonsense, are not aware of this fact. In nearly every locality where changes are noted in our state they have been effected through the action of the agricultural and laboring classes, and for the purpose of securing certain reforms in their interests. Resubmission is not one the reforms desired by these classes. They are not that kind of cats.

Ex-Governor St. John tells the facts in relation to the saloon in Vice President Morton's new hotel in the city of Washington in the following words. The facts though not as bad as at first reported, are still not highly creditable to the second official in the government of this great country.

"It has been reported that Vice President Morton is a saloonkeeper. That is not true. It has been charged that he has taken out a retail liquor license. That is not true. It has been stated that a saloon license had been issued for a hotel owned by the vice president. That is true. I come from the seat of war, and I know the facts. Morton finished a fashionable hotel, and leased it to a man named Kernan. Kernan applied for a license. He had to get the consent of the owners of the property on each side, and they were Vice President Morton and John R. McLean. Vice President Morton was the first to consent that liquors should be sold in this new hotel."

Our readers will do well to make a note of the "official cook book," mentioned in another column. The government evidently understands the existing condition of the people and this provision for their necessities is very considerate and timely. The book will supply a "long felt want."

The Advocate, Vol. 1 No. 14, a new paper published at Meriden Kan., has made its bow to the people in good shape. It is anti-monopoly, anti-bank to the core. It is printed nicely in four column quarto style, 8 pages, \$1 per year. S. McLellan, editor; J. P. Limeburner associate. Chicago Express.